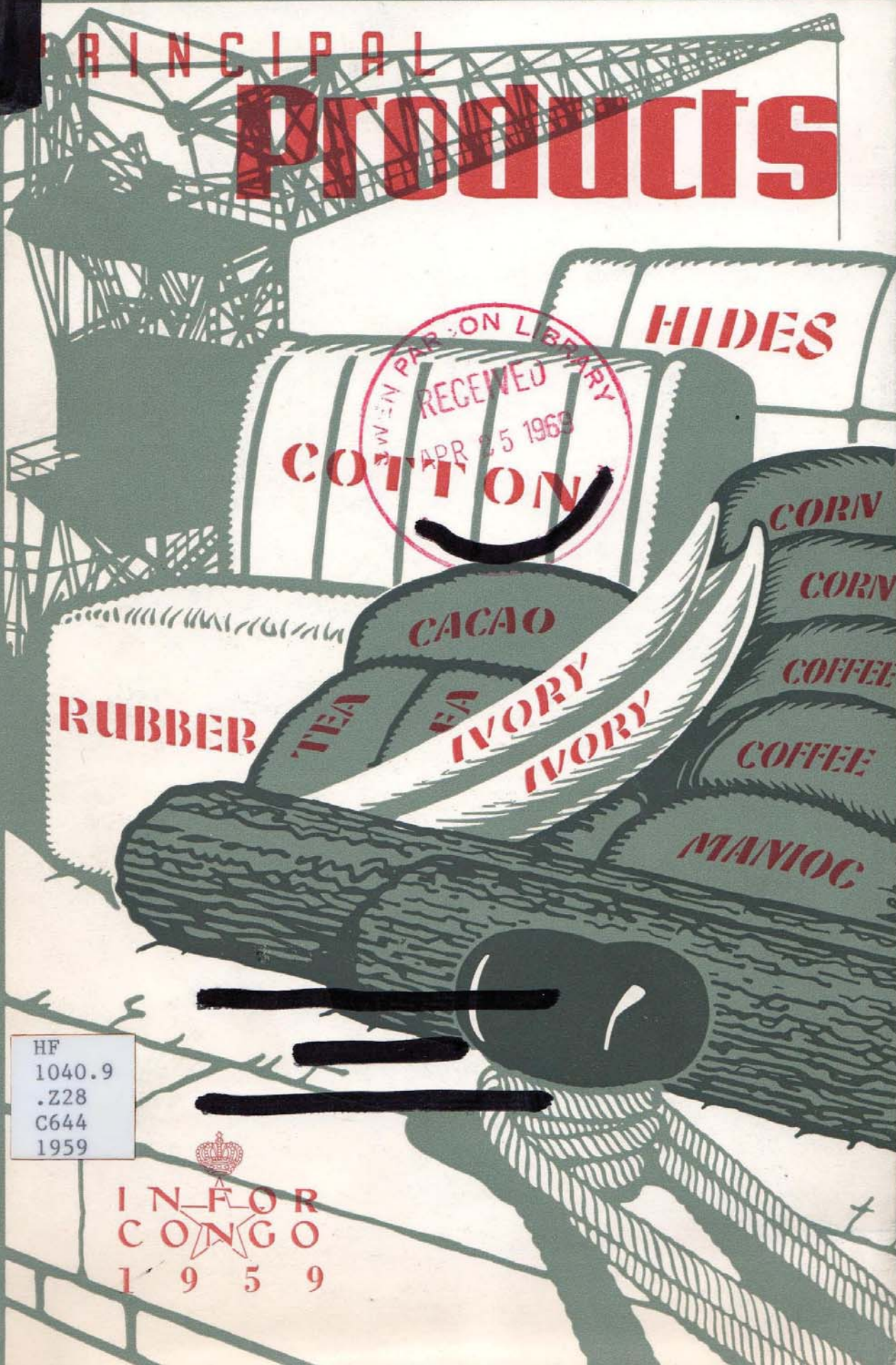


# facts about the Congo

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## **FACTS ABOUT THE CONGO**

BROCHURE VI

## **COMMERCIAL INFORMATION**

RELATIVE TO THE

## **PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS OF**

## **THE BELGIAN CONGO AND RUANDA-URUNDI**



SECOND EDITION

OFFICE DE L'INFORMATION ET DES RELATIONS PUBLIQUES  
POUR LE CONGO BELGE ET LE RUANDA - URUNDI  
2nd DEPARTMENT

**3, RUE MONTROYER, BRUSSELS. phone 12.66.88**

**1959**

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## Introduction

*The Second Department of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Information and Public Relations Office has the pleasure of presenting the 1959 edition of the brochure relative to the Congo's principal products.*

*This booklet contains essential commercial information and lists leading producers and exporters. A complete list can be found in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Directory edited by our Office.*

*We aim to make this brochure as perfect as possible, and we therefore welcome any comments and suggestions that you would care to make, which we will bear in mind for our future issues.*

*We gratefully acknowledge the help given us by professional associations, producers' committees and colonial companies who willingly co-operated in the publication of our brochure.*

\*  
\*\*

*A country's economical prosperity is genuine and has significance only if the equilibrium of its commercial and payment balances is accompanied by a constant desire to expand industry and trade.*

*The Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, and Belgium, being of the same monetary zone, are able to carry on unlimited trade relations as a home market, so to speak.*

The Second Department of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Information and Public Relations Office is at the disposal of industrialists, importers, exporters and merchants for any additional information they may require in view of developing trade with the Congo or contacting colonial markets.



## Wood

Technological forestry has brought to light the qualities of certain species of trees found in our Congolese forests, and it has also indicated the uses for which they are best adapted.

The research had to bear in mind that these properties varied not only with each specimen and the age of the tree, but also from one locality to another, and from tree to tree, so to speak.

At one time colonial wood was not well considered, and this too hasty criticism was due to the exported wood having been used before it was completely seasoned. We have since learnt that these types of wood must undergo a more thorough drying-out process than the wood of European countries.

Moreover, certain soft woods need a protective chemical treatment.

By permission of the editors, the Ministry of Belgian Congo in Brussels and the Colonial Government in Leopoldville, the statistics in this brochure were taken from *La Situation Economique du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi* and *Le Bulletin mensuel du Commerce extérieur du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi*.



Congo wood is often dark, or red, and is known to be particularly sturdy; brown wood and lighter shades are reputed for their durability. It is important, however, to realize that their characteristics are far different from ordinary woods; they must therefore avoid being classified with these, but under their proper denominations, they should be used for specific and appropriate purposes.

Specialists are now acquainted with these peculiarities and agree that our colonial woods are of a very fine quality.

They are used, according to their variety, for the manufacture of fine furniture, cabinet-making, special carpentry, panelings and decorations: the strongest woods are used principally in shipbuilding and railroad car construction.

A recent and particularly interesting development is the local manufacture of veneer and ply-woods, which has met with great success on the international market.

#### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	144	43
1930	13,333	3,740
1935	37,191	14,692
1939	50,001	5,961
1945	47,055	79,438
1946	77,525	125,647
1947	100,232	167,120
1948	78,099	138,468
1949	71,313	106,935
1950	105,233	181,718
1951	135,651	277,244
1952	91,004	195,553
1953	142,463	296,872
1954	169,950	365,801
1955	166,412	379,781
1956	162,025	396,265
1957	160,911	419,871
1958	143,649	391,075
1959	162,535	430,120

#### Leading Producers in the Belgian Congo

*Société de Colonisation Agricole au Mayumbe "S.C.A.M."*, Tshela (Mayumbe); 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Exploitation Forestière et Agricole de Kamanzanza "Forakam"*, Matadi; 4, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.

*Lukolela Plantations*, Lukolela (Equateur); 51, rue du Parc, Liège.

*Société Agriculture et Plantations au Congo "A.P.C."*, Temvo, (Mayumbe); 12, rue Belliard, Brussels.

*Société de Cultures au Congo Belge*, Binga par Lisala; 49, rue Belliard, Brussels.

*Compagnie Belge des Fruits Coloniaux "Cobelfruit"*, Matadi; 16, boulevard Bischoffsheim, Brussels.

*Compagnie des Placages et Contreplacages du Congo "Korina-Congo"*, Boma (Mayumbe); 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Exploitations Forestières au Kasai "Exforka"*, Elisabethville (Katanga); 7, montagne du Parc, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale, Agricole, Forestière et Industrielle de la Tshuapa*, Wema (Boende); 95, rue Ambiorix, Liège.

*Société Forestière et Agricole du Mayumbe "Agrifor"*, Lemba (Mayumbe); 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Société Forestière et Commerciale du Congo Belge "Forescom"*, Nioki (Lac Léopold II); 54, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société pour l'Industrie du Bois et des Placages "Sobopla"*, N'Kolo Bolobo (par Léopoldville); 35, rue Belliard, Brussels.

*Congo Bois et Contreplacages "Cobois"*, Elisabethville; 129, chaussée de Gand, Courtrai.

#### Leading Exporters

*Société Forestière et Agricole du Mayumbe "Agrifor"*, Lemba; 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.



*Exploitation Forestière et Agricole de Kamanzanza "Forakam"*, Matadi; 4, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.

*Compagnie des Placages et Contreplacages du Congo "Korina-Congo"*, Boma (Mayumbe); 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Société Forestière et Commerciale du Congo Belge "Forescom"*, Nioki (Lac Léopold II); 54, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société pour l'Industrie du Bois et des Placages "Sobopla"*, 35, rue Belliard, Brussels.

#### Principal Agents in Belgium

*Scieries van Huffel, S. A.*, 190, Bassin Canal Albertdok, Antwerp.

*Jassogne*, 445, avenue Louise, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, S. A., 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.



## Cacao

The cacao tree is a native of the Amazon and Orinoco River basins. Cacao growing first began to spread in Columbia, Equador and Mexico, and later on it was extensively developed in Venezuela.

Cacao was brought from South America into Asia and Africa, principally on the Gold Coast, which is now known as Ghana.



In Ghana, as in Nigeria, the cacao tree is grown by the natives in little patches of land, but as they do not possess adequate technical knowledge either for the cultivation or the protective care of the trees, these small plantations are sometimes exposed to the mass attacks of insects and plant diseases causing disastrous losses.

The first cacao plantations for commercial exploitation were established in the Belgian Congo toward the year 1900. They developed slowly up to the last war and were often unsuccessful, as the cacao tree is a delicate plant which requires great care. In order to flourish it must be planted in good fertile soil and have abundant and steady rain of at least 1,500 mm to 1,800 mm annually. It must also have a considerable amount of suitable shade. The cacao tree is very susceptible to insects and plant diseases.

The rich soil of the equator, certain districts in Stanleyville and Tshuapa, as well as the fertile ground of Mayumbe, are favorable to the growth of the cacao tree, and its cultivation in these areas has been increasingly successful, due to the progress of tropical agronomy and phytopathology in recent years.

World production of cacao has steadily increased since 1930. During several years, however, crops diminished and at times were at a complete standstill because of the tremendous damage that had been done to native plantations in Ghana by a virus carried by borer insects.

The production of the Belgian Congo only has a small participation in world production of cacao, and is not able, as yet, to meet the needs of the Belgian market, which is for approximately 8,000 tons.

#### Extent of Cacao Plantations in the Belgian Congo

	1954	1955	1956	1957	
Productive . .	32,263	34,248	36,474	36,348	acres
Young plantations . .	18,303	18,362	22,009	25,650	acres
Total . . . .	40,566	52,610	58,583	61,998	acres

#### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	355	1,236
1930	1,195	11,594
1935	1,260	3,401
1939	1,157	3,956
1945	1,971	11,262
1946	1,091	6,245
1947	1,962	25,509
1948	2,220	48,983
1949	1,812	36,564
1950	1,692	43,337
1951	1,846	69,753
1952	2,057	71,703
1953	2,637	86,317
1954	2,936	152,331
1955	3,494	150,166
1956	4,263	120,546
1957	4,958	124,816
1958	4,873	201,097
1959	3,874	144,779

#### Leading Producers in the Belgian Congo

*Bangala Cultuur Maatschappij "Bangala"*, Lisala (Bangala);  
5, avenue Cardinal Mercier, Berchem-Antwerp.

*Huileries du Congo Belge* (Province de l'Equateur); 46, rue  
Montoyer, Brussels.

*Lukolela Plantations*, Lukolela (Province de l'Equateur);  
51, rue du Parc, Liège.

*Plantations M. Mamet*, Biroko-Lac Tumba par Coquilhatville.

*Société Agricole au Mayumbe*, Luki (Mayumbe); 81, rue  
Royale, Brussels.

*Société d'Agriculture et de Plantations du Congo (A.P.C.)*,  
Temvo (Mayumbe); 97, rue de la Loi, Brussels.



*Entreprises Agricoles de la Busira au Lomami "Busira-Lomami", Ikela; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.*

*Société de Colonisation Agricole au Mayumbe (S.C.A.M.), Tshela (Mayumbe); 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.*

*Société Cotonnière du Bomokandi (Socobom), Tely; 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.*

*Société de Cultures au Congo Belge, Binga par Lisala (Equator); 49, rue Belliard, Brussels.*

*Société Equatoriale Congolaise Lulonga-Ikelemba (S.E.C.L.I.), Wendjilez-Coquilhatville; 3, rue Solvyns, Antwerp.*

#### Principal Agents in Belgium

*Crédit National et Colonial, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.*

*Société Congolaise Bunge, 21, rue Arenberg, Antwerp.*

*Osterrieth et C<sup>ie</sup>, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.*

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel", S. A., 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.*



## Coffee

The coffee plant is of central and tropical African origin and apparently was first used as a food in Abyssinia and Arabia.

Coffee-growing in the true sense, however, only started in the 18th century, and is believed to have been at first exploited by the Dutch, who brought grains from Abyssinia into Java. Several years later, especially after the original grains had undergone a selection, this cultivation was introduced into Central America, where it spread rapidly.

But it was not until 1920 that coffee was grown on an industrial scale in the Belgian Congo. The "Robusta" variety was planted in the northern part of the Colony and in the equatorial basin, while the ideal soil for "Arabica" coffee was



found in the high eastern regions, mainly in Kivu. Moreover, the native populations of the territories under Ruanda-Urundi protectorate also undertook the extensive cultivation of "Arabica" coffee.

In 1940, the Belgian Government founded the Office of Agricultural Products for the purpose of promoting agricultural colonization, of studying its various aspects and problems, and improving the methods used for preparing the harvested coffee. The "Arabica" and "Robusta" varieties were given the most attention.

As a result of the war these two Offices, until 1947, were assigned to the conditioning and the sale of coffee. Since then, their work is entirely technical and consists principally in controlling quality and classifying permanent types of coffee so that they can be easily marketed by their denominations.

In 1947, the Offices' commercial activities were transferred to producers' co-operatives: the "Comptoir de Vente des Cafés Arabica du Kivu—CAFEKIVU—" in Bukavu, and the "Comptoir de Vente des Cafés du Congo—CAFECONGO—" in Léopoldville.

The Congo varieties of coffee are well-known, appreciated and in demand in almost all coffee-drinking countries because of their fine quality, and the efficient sales management of the co-operatives.

In 1958 export reached a total of 70,603 tons representing a statistical value of 2,815,603 francs.

#### Acreage of Coffee Plantations

	1954	1955	1956	1957	
BELGIAN CONGO :					
Robusta coffee	183,762	217,423	261,056	301,387	acres
Arabica coffee	41,985	48,370	48,637	52,449	acres
RUANDA-URUNDI :					
Native plantations					
of Arabica coffee	225,747	265,793	309,693	353,837	acres

#### Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	113	307
1932	1,537	14,758
1935	13,161	41,333
1939	20,182	87,473
1945	32,295	318,144
1946	27,553	263,785
1947	37,353	558,191
1948	30,545	474,380
1949	31,445	562,001
1950	33,389	1,278,895
1951	35,406	1,710,814
1952	30,901	1,609,408
1953	33,948	1,674,716
1954	34,391	1,934,906
1955	43,678	2,044,076
1956	52,045	2,227,142
1957	67,029	2,916,997
1958	70,603	2,815,603
1959	93,415	3,074,395

#### Leading Producers in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi <sup>(1)</sup>

"Comuele", Société Commerciale et Minière de l'Uele, 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

"Biario", Société des Exploitations Agricoles et Industrielles de la Biario, 54, rue Royale, Brussels.

Entreprises Agricoles de la Busira au Lomami "Busira-Lomami", Ikela; 13, rue de Bréderode, Brussels.

"Socobom", Société Cotonnière du Bomokandi, 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.

"Plantadem", Société des Plantations de Dembia, 12, place de Louvain, Brussels.

<sup>(1)</sup> Plantations of over 1,200 acres.



"Katompe", *Plantations de Katompe au Katanga*, 23, place de Meir, Antwerp.

"S.C.C.B.", *Société de Cultures au Congo Belge*, 49, rue Belliard, Brussels.

"Bangala", *Bangala Cultuur Maatschappij*, Kardinaal Mercierlei, 5, Berchem-Antwerp.

"Belgika", 121, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

"Cada", *Compagnie Agricole d'Afrique*, 112, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

"Bamboli", *Bamboli Cultuur Maatschappij*, Kardinaal Mercierlei 5, Berchem-Antwerp.

"H.C.B.", Division "Café du Congo", 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

"Cotonco", *Compagnie Cotonnière Congolaise*, 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.

#### Merchants — Exporters

*Société Van Santen et Vanden Broeck*, "Estaf", Bukavu et Usumbura; 239, Longue rue d'Argile, Antwerp.

"Sedec", Léopoldville et Usumbura; 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

*Commerce et Plantation au Ruanda-Urundi*, "Plantarundi", Usumbura; 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

S. Alhadeff, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi).

D. et H. Israël, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi).

Old East, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi).

#### Distributors

S. C. *Comptoir de Vente des Cafés Arabica du Kivu* "Café-kivu", Boîte Postale 265 à Goma (Kivu).

S. C. *Comptoir de Vente des Cafés du Congo* "Cafécongo",

Boîte Postale 356 à Léopoldville; 106, rue Belliard. Brussels (cafés Robusta et Arabica).

#### Principal Agents in Belgium

*Société Congolaise Bunge*, 21, rue Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Compagnie Commerciale Kreglinger*, 9, Grand-Place, Antwerp.

*Comptoir des Cafés Victor de Haes*, 31, rue Comte d'Egmont, Antwerp.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et d'Extrême-Orient Réunies*, S. A., "Socomabel", 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.

*Crédit Colonial et Commercial*, 115, avenue de France, Antwerp. London Branch, Ibex House, Minorities, London E C3.





## Rubber

Almost all natural rubber is obtained from the tapping of the *Hevea Brasiliensis* tree <sup>(1)</sup>, which is a native of the Amazon River basin. The first plantations in the Belgian Congo were established in 1905, and since then rubber growing has undergone progressive stages of development. It is principally due to the importation of grafted specimens from Far East selections, and the perfection obtained by continual grafting, that the cultivation of rubber was able to increase during the last ten years.

In order to flourish, the Para tree requires a hot climate and much rain, and the best plantations are, therefore, in the

<sup>(1)</sup> Para rubber tree.

lower equatorial regions. Nevertheless, there are also some plantations thriving in Mayumbe and Sankuru.

Constant research for selection, soil, and technical methods of cultivation most suitable for the Para tree is continually improving the tappers' professional capacities, and is perfecting treatment of the product, as well.

The quality of Congo rubber, at present, is as good, if not better than that of the world's foremost producers.

The future of Para tree cultivation has vast possibilities correlative to the many uses of rubber which research has discovered in addition to the better known industrial utilizations and strategic needs. In recent years rubber has been used especially for road-surfacing, housing insulation, roofing, the water-proofing of fabrics, and the manufacture of dielectric material.

In 1958, the world production of natural rubber totaled 1,855,000 gross tons, of which 92,4 % was contributed by Asia, and 5,7 % by Africa; Belgian Congo production, which reached 35,090 tons, was responsible for approximately 1.9 %.

World consumption of all types of rubber came to 3,210,000 gross tons in 1958, of which

1,985,000 tons, or 62.7 % was natural rubber.

1,225,000 tons, or 37.3 % was synthetic rubber.

We mention, merely as general information, some species of rubber trees which do not yield sufficiently and are no longer used for commercial exploitation, such as: *funtumia*, *castilloa*, *manihot*, *ficus*, and grasses and creepers belonging to the *Landolphia* family. Latex was gathered from these plants at the time of the Congo Free State but this practice was abandoned in favor of trees that yielded satisfactory quantities.

### The Acreage of Para rubber Plantations in the Belgian Congo

	1955	1956	1957	
Productive . . . . .	135,124	136,686	141,163	acres
Young plantations . . . . .	59,119	60,685	66,566	acres
Total . . . . .	194,243	197,371	207,729	acres



### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	1,122	5,117
1930	511	7,175
1935	817	2,877
1939	1,127	9,563
1945	7,980	151,092
1946	6,722	128,480
1947	4,914	69,737
1948	5,072	63,684
1949	6,780	92,525
1950	8,271	186,924
1951	12,167	693,836
1952	16,807	605,453
1953	18,085	409,913
1954	22,547	409,630
1955	26,083	796,915
1956	32,529	1,035,273
1957	34,310	1,018,547
1958	35,090	849,573
1959	40,172	1,113,432

### Principal Producers in the Belgian Congo

*Bamboli Cultuur Maatschappij (Bamboli)*, Stanleyville; 5, avenue Cardinal Mercier, Berchem-Antwerp.

*Bangala Cultuur Maatschappij (Bangala)*, Lisla (Equateur); 5, avenue Cardinal Mercier, Berchem-Antwerp.

*Compagnie Congolaise de l'Hévéa*, Lukula Bavu (Mayumbe); 52, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Compagnie Cotonnière Congolaise (Cotonco)*, Lomela (Kasai); 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.

*Compagnie de Libenge*, Motenge-Boma-lez-Libenge (Ubangi); 148, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Huileries du Congo Belge (H. C. B.)*, Léopoldville; 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

*Belgika*, Stanleyville; 121, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Congo Rubber Estates, S. A.*, Monkoto (Equateur); 53, rue Vieille, Hasselt.

*Cultures Equatoriales*, Lukula Bavu (Mayumbe); 52, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Exploitations Agricoles et Industrielles de la Biaro*, Biaro (Stanleyville, Province Orientale); 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Plantations de Bosenge Lilenga*, Lilenga (Tshuapa); 23, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Plantation de Busu Bulu*, Busu Bulu via Lisala, Territoire de Bongandanga, Equateur, Congo Belge.

*Plantations Mapimbia*, Mapimbia-Stanleyville D. S.

*Plantations de Djombo*, Bofala (Equateur); 9, place E. Flagey, Brussels.

*Entreprises Agricoles de la Busira au Lomami "Busira-Lomami"*, Ikela; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Société d'Agriculture et de Plantations au Congo (A. P. C.)*, Temvo (Mayumbe); 12, rue Belliard, Brussels.

*Société de Colonisation Agricole au Mayumbe (S.C.A.M.)*, Tshela (Mayumbe); 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale et Minière de l'Uele (Comuele)*; 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Société de Culture au Congo Belge*, Binga par Lisala (Bangala); 49, rue Belliard, Brussels.

*Société Equatoriale Congolaise Lulonga Ikelemba (S.E.C.L.I.)* (Equateur); 3, rue Solvyns, Antwerp.

*Société Forestière et Commerciale du Congo Belge (Forescom)*, Nioki (Lac Léopold II); 54, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société Industrielle et Commerciale de l'Afrique Centrale (Sicomac)*, Bosajafo Lulonga (Tshuapa); 23, rue Saint-Brice, Tournai.

*Société Agricole du Bas-Congo "S. A. B. A. C."*, Boma (Mayumbe); 5, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.



#### Principal Agents in Belgium

- Société Congolaise Bunge*, 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.  
*Crédit National et Colonial*, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.  
*Compagnie Commerciale Kreglinger, S. A.*, 9, Grand-Place, Antwerp.  
*Bureau d'Achat Jean Spitalier*, 60, avenue de Tervueren, Brussels.  
*Crédit Colonial et Commercial*, 115, avenue de France, Antwerp.  
*Grisar et C<sup>ie</sup>*, Rempart Kipdorp, Antwerp.  
*Osterrieth et C<sup>ie</sup>*, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.  
*Société de Gestion d'Entreprises Coloniales (Sogescol)*, 52, rue Royale, Brussels.  
*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies*, 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.



## Fruit

The climate of the Belgian Congo, like all tropical and subtropical countries, is favorable to big-scale production of a large variety of fruits.

Most of these fruits are highly appreciated by local European residents, but many factors, mainly geographical, prevent exportation of all the varieties. Many of them are too delicate for transportation and the handling required, and could not resist the changes of temperature during the long distances of transport in Africa before even reaching a shipping port. It is, moreover, commercially impossible to provide conditioning throughout such trips.

We note, for documentary purposes, that the fruits most

in demand on the European market are: mangosteen, papaw, pineapple, guava, avocado, mango, granadilla, and barbadine.

Like all countries that cultivate exotic fruits, the Belgian Congo can only undertake big-scale commercial exportation of fruit which is grown along the coast lines, or can be easily sent to ports for European shipment that are within reasonable distances.

Two types of fruit answer these requirements:

— Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, grapefruit) grow in Mayumbe and the Lower Congo.

— Bananas (the "Gros Michel" variety) cultivated extensively in Mayumbe, which has the advantage of being close to shipping ports.

#### Belgian Congo Fruit Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1934	213	216
1935	302	221
1939	2,424	1,208
1945	1,244	2,352
1946	1,903	4,489
1947	2,192	4,303
1948	3,224	6,012
1949	4,763	8,907
1950	12,230	25,265
1951	17,791	36,070
1952	22,450	45,116
1953	25,378	87,560
1954	17,281	62,937
1955	30,150	86,171
1956	38,993	78,297
1957	36,353	73,661
1958	28,768	58,967
1959	31,115	62,457

There was a drop in production in 1954, due to a severe drought that paralyzed the plantations.

#### Leading Producers

*Compagnie Belge des Fruits Coloniaux*, Léopoldville; 16, boulevard Bischoffsheim, Brussels.

*Coopérative des Producteurs de Fruits du Bas-Congo*, Lemba par Boma (Mayumbe); 12, rue Belliard, Brussels.

*Société Agricole du Bas-Congo "Sabac"*, Boma (Mayumbe); 5, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.

*Société Agricole et Forestière du Mayumbe*, Lemba (Mayumbe); 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Société Agricole du Mayumbe*, Luki (Mayumbe); 81, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société Agricole de Moenge "Agrimo"*, Temvo par Boma.

*Plantations de Mayenga*, Temvo par Boma.

*Plantations Congo Defi*, Temvo par Boma.

*Exploitation Forestière et Agricole de Kamanzanza "Forakam"*, Seke-Banza par Matadi.

*Plantations Kestemont*, Boma.

*Société Coloniale d'Entreprises et de Plantations "Socolep"*, Boma.

*Société d'Agriculture et de Plantations au Congo*, Temvo (Mayumbe); 12, rue Belliard, Brussels.

*Société Bananière du Mayumbe*, Boma (Mayumbe); 5, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.

*Société des Bois et Produits du Mayumbe*, Lukula Bavu (Mayumbe); 9, quai de Brabant, Charleroi.

#### Principal Agents in Belgium

*Etablissements B. M. Spiers & Son*, S. A., 2, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.

*Etablissements Gérard Koninckx Frères*, S. A., 5, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.

*Léon Van Parys*, 3, rue de la Navigation, Antwerp.





## Corn

Corn is a food plant of Central American origin. It was introduced into Africa several years after it had been imported into Spain, and cultivation spread throughout all of Central Europe and Asia.

At present, corn is grown in all temperate and hot countries, and the plantation surface throughout the entire world represents approximately 150 million acres. The Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi had some 1,100,000 odd acres of corn-fields in 1950.

Corn-meal, which is obtained by grinding the corn, is a staple food for the majority of central African tribes. It is

not a complete food, however, as it only contains 7 % of protein, 1 to 2 % of fat, and 70 % of starch; the rest is composed of cellulose substance.

Corn is used in great quantities in the brewery industry and is also utilized for the manufacture of starch and dextrine, and for alcohol as well, which is obtained by fermentation. It serves, moreover, for manufacturing starchy foods and semolina. Oil-cake for cattle is a by-product, and the green fodder is particularly relished by the animals.

It is important to note that there is an increasing demand for Belgian Congo corn, and especially "white corn" for starch factories who value its high starch content as compared to its small percentage of fat.

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1933	73	67
1934	450	209
1935	1,810	3,214
1939	19,693	9,479
1945	3,826	4,829
1946	4,427	6,198
1947	31,532	92,269
1948	27,497	76,014
1949	17,225	42,803
1950	17,748	46,099
1951	23,938	90,585
1952	207	816
1953	4,577	14,036
1954	20,443	54,764
1955	8,820	24,414
1956	2,984	8,527
1957	14,204	34,903
1958	15,120	32,937
1959	8,863	21,721



#### Leading Belgian Congo Exporters

*Amato Frères*, Elisabethville (Katanga); 36, rue Ravenstein, Brussels.

*Minoteries du Katanga*, Kakontwe (Jadotville); 6, Montagne du Parc, Brussels.

*Intertropical Comfina*, Léopoldville; 62-66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Compagnie du Kasai*, Dima (Kasai); 41, rue de Naples, Brussels.

*Sedec*, Léopoldville; 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

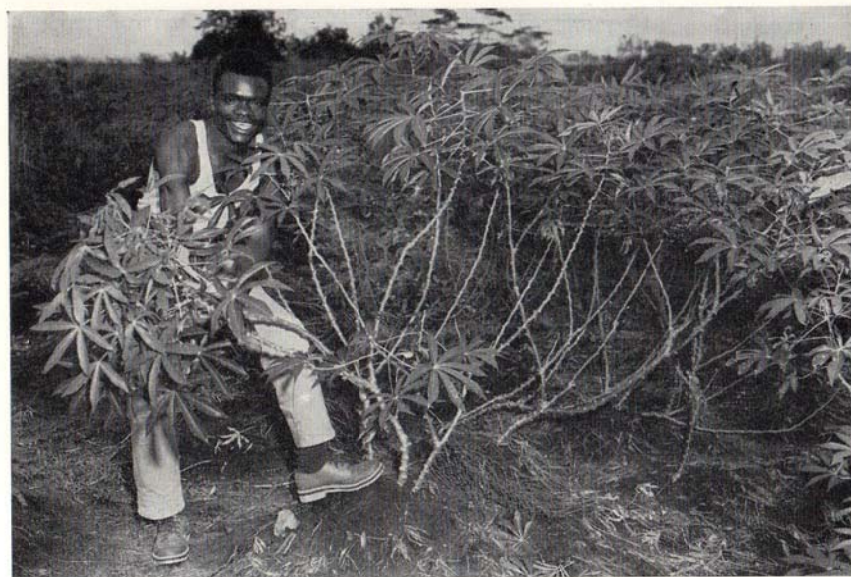
*Compagnie Jules Van Lancker*, N'Kolo (Bas-Congo); 17, rue de Londres, Brussels.

*Tarica et C<sup>ie</sup>*, Elisabethville (Katanga).

*Etablissements Madail*, Léopoldville.

*Société Congolaise Bunge*, 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.



## Manioc

Manioc is a food plant of South American origin, and it is believed to have been introduced into Central Africa by navigators around the year 1600.

Manioc-growing in the Belgian Congo has expanded amongst the native population to such an extent that at present this excellent food plant constitutes the basic hydrocarbonic nourishment for a great many tribes. It is also fine fodder for cattle.

The success with which cultivation has met is largely due to the easy and rapid growth of manioc and its abundant, certain yield. Furthermore, it requires very little farming. The root of the manioc plant, however, has a relatively small food value as it only contains 0.75 % of protein, 0.33 % of dex-



trose, 1 % of saccharose and dextrine, 35 % starch, and no fats. The rest consists of cellulose substance.

There has been a definite increase in export during the last two years, in spite of competition with other countries whose prices are lower than those of the Congo. But notwithstanding its higher cost, Belgian Congo manioc has a very promising future provided that its actual high standards and conditioning can be maintained.

#### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1932	11	
1933	4	
1934	12	
1937	107	
1939	1,703	972
1945	4,002	3,557
1946	10,319	10,005
1947	4,113	11,979
1948	15,304	42,936
1949	13,018	29,921
1950	10,654	23,979
1951	2,675	6,441
1952	3,686	11,574
1953	12,234	40,111
1954	16,419	46,785
1955	21,673	65,800
1956	20,643	65,951
1957	15,623	46,608
1958	41,428	122,765
1959	50,166	148,104

#### Leading Belgian Congo Exporters

*Compagnie Jules Van Lancker*, Léopoldville; 17, rue de Londres, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, Léopoldville; 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.

*Amato Frères*, Elisabethville et Léopoldville; 36, rue Ravenstein, Brussels.

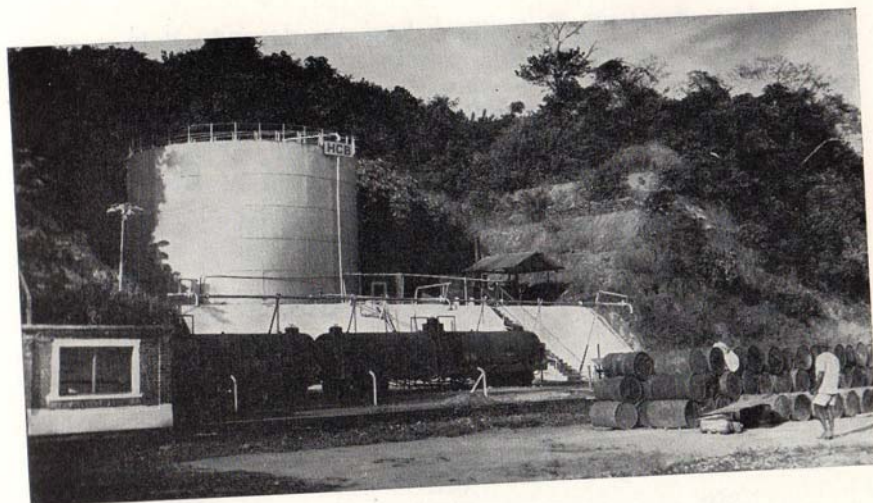
*Société Coloniale des Etablissements Albert Jacques*, Mweka (Kasai); 34, avenue Rubens, Antwerp.

*Moutinho da Franca*, Port Francqui (Kasai).

*M. Simon Israël*, Luluabourg (Kasai).

*M. Jordens*, Dilolo (Katanga).





## Oleaginous Plants

Belgian Congo flora is rich in plants containing oily substances in the form of oil or fat, but only a few varieties have a content which is sufficient to justify commercial exploitation.

Amongst the oleaginous plants not considered suitable for big-scale production, or which are only exported in small quantities to date, we mention, for documentary purposes:

The *coconut palm*, whose fruit is known as the coconut;

The *pentaclethra macrophylla*, the seeds of which yield a fat used in stearic products;

The *aleurite*: the crushed seeds produce a quick-drying oil known as tung oil;

The *sunflower* yields an edible oil utilized in processing

industries of products such as: soap, varnish, paint and enamel, as well as margarine.

The four oleaginous plants now being grown for rational cultivation and commercial export are: the groundnut, or peanut vine, the castor-oil plant, the sesame plant and the elæis.

## THE PEANUT

The groundnut, more commonly known as the peanut, is a native of Brazil, but at present its growth has spread to all tropical and subtropical countries. India, the United States, Senegal, Nigeria, China and Argentina are foremost in the production of peanuts.

Peanuts play an important part in the diet of Congolese natives, and are considered as a valuable food because of their high protein and fat content.

Great quantities of peanuts are handled by colonial industries for their products and by-products, such as:

Food oils;

Industrial oils;

Oil-cakes;

Peanut flour.

Moreover the shells and leaves are converted into excellent fodder. In order to have some idea of the promising future of peanut growing, it is interesting to note that Belgium alone offers an outlet for 40,000 tons of shelled peanuts, 20,000 tons unshelled, and 60,000 tons in cake form. There is no doubt that local industry will be called upon to handle increasingly large quantities.

The importance of peanut cultivation in the Belgian Congo can be judged by the extent of its plantations in 1957, which covered about one million acres.

Export, however, is only authorized after the local needs have been fulfilled.



### Peanut Oil

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
	41	92
1938	98	219
1939	191	1,416
1945	2,055	24,188
1946	2,681	58,239
1947	5,372	89,330
1948	9,673	156,430
1949	5,441	75,394
1950	8,334	194,153
1951	5,598	85,568
1952	8,761	135,463
1953	5,716	97,867
1954	5,224	64,174
1955	7,748	123,597
1956	6,626	102,301
1957	6,294	72,025
1958	6,959	78,715
1959		

### Peanut Oil-Cakes

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
	7,005	22,134
1948	11,481	33,336
1949	4,068	12,570
1950	10,352	41,076
1951	6,275	22,661
1952	9,000	34,967
1953	7,033	28,669
1954	5,781	24,713
1955	9,136	36,492
1956	8,672	39,337
1957	8,262	23,255
1958	9,161	33,458
1959		

### Leading Exporters of the Belgian Congo

"Huilkat", Elisabethville.

*Mercantile Africaine*, Elisabethville.

*Tarica et C<sup>ie</sup>*, Elisabethville.

*Amato Frère*, Elisabethville; 36, rue Ravenstein, Brussels.

*Minoterie du Katanga*, Kakontwe (Jadotville); 6, montagne du Parc, Brussels.

*Société Congolaise Bunge*, Léopoldville; 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Compagnie du Kasai*, Dima (Kasai); 41, rue de Naples, Brussels.

*Compagnie Jules Van Lancker*, N'Kolo (Thysville); 17, rue de Londres, Brussels.

*Intertropical Comfina*, Léopoldville; 62-66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Minery Fontenay*, 6, rue des Tanneurs, Antwerp.

*Sedec*, Léopoldville; 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.

*Société Commerciale et Minière de l'Uele*, Aketi (Uele); 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

### SESAME

Sesame is believed to have been brought into the Belgian Congo by the Arabs. It is grown principally in Ubangi, Ituri, Maniema, Kasai and the Lower Congo.

The oil obtained by a cold treatment is of nutritive value to the natives, and that which is extracted by a heating process is used for soap.

Good use is also made of the by-products as fodder and fertilizer.

The Belgian Congo uses a portion of its production for home consumption and the surplus is exported as follows :



### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Seeds Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	388	687
1930	775	930
1935	226	304
1939	1,512	1,671
1945	357	1,942
1946	506	3,300
1947	110	913
1948	2,371	18,752
1949	1,889	16,978
1950	1,995	15,997
1951	1,337	16,437
1952	1,564	15,393
1953	747	6,572
1954	615	5,507
1955	539	5,600
1956	771	8,018
1957	552	5,700
1958	725	7,376
1959	404	3,801

#### Leading Exporters of the Belgian Congo

*Amato Frères*, Elisabethville (Katanga); 36, rue Ravenstein, Brussels.

*Etablissements Madail*, Léopoldville.

*Pereira et Ferreira*, Léopoldville; 64, rue de la Loi, Brussels.

*Sedec*, Léopoldville; 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

*Société Congolaise Bunge*, Léopoldville; 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Intertropical Comfina*, Léopoldville; 62-66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, Léopoldville; 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.

*Société Commerciale et Minière de l'Uele "Comuele"*, Aketi (Uele); 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

### CASTOR OIL

The castor-oil plant is of African origin and it is found practically everywhere in the Congo, although cultivation has not yet been developed on an important scale.

The plant is grown by the natives in small areas near their dwellings, so that household refuse can easily fertilize the soil.

India, Brazil, the United States and the African colonies lead in the production of castor oil.

Refined castor oil is used in pharmaceutical products, and it is also known to be the ideal lubricating oil for airplane motors. Its industrial utilizations are mostly for soap, for tanning and tawing, for wax, linoleum, and dyeing.

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

#### Castor Beans

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	6	5
1925	52	39
1936	5	4
1939	2	1
1945	87	171
1946	58	112
1947	—	—
1948	1,962	12,338
1949	3,131	14,842
1950	2,159	10,184
1951	2,367	23,667
1952	2,872	25,847
1953	1,156	8,934
1954	1,539	7,936
1955	1,108	4,852
1956	1,165	7,266
1957	1,595	12,825
1958	612	3,244
1959	489	2,410



### Leading Exporters of the Belgian Congo

*Intertropical Comfina*, Léopoldville; 62-66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, Léopoldville; 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.

*Société Van Santen et Van den Broeck "Estaf"*, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi); 239, rue Longue d'Argile, Antwerp.

*Sedec*, Léopoldville et Usumbura; 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

*Minoterie du Katanga*, Kakontwe (Province du Katanga); 6, montagne du Parc, Brussels.

*M. S. Alhadeff*, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi); 18, rue Hydraulique, Brussels.

*Ols-East*, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi).

*"Socorundi"*, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi).

### THE ELÆIS (oil-palm)

The elæis, or oil-palm is a native of central and western Africa. It is found everywhere in the Belgian Congo except in the northeast, the mountainous eastern regions, and upper Katanga.

The oil-palm has been extensively cultivated in Mayumbe, Kwango, Kasai, and in the central basin.

It is grown in:

- European plantations;
- Native plantations;
- Naturel groves which have been developed along forest

inroads or on the outskirts of villages. The latter are the inherited properties of families or clans.

The products extracted from the elæis are known under their commercial names of palm oil, palm butter, and palm oil-cake.

Palm oil with a low acid content constitutes an edible fat used mainly in the margarine industry, whereas oil with a high acid content is utilized in soap factories and in metallurgic industries.

The demand for this oil in various fields of industry has been instrumental in the unusually extensive development of oil-palm plantations, and the amount of land that has been appropriated is ample proof, as well as production and export statistics and their monetary value.

### Acreeage of Elæis Plantations in the Belgian Congo

	1954	1955	1956	1957	
Natural groves .	137,144	117,716	102,494	103,730	acres
Productive plantations . .	205,733	238,761	384,931	382,627	acres
Total . . .	342,877	356,477	487,425	486,357	acres
Young plantations	86,605	98,682	157,333	165,782	acres



### Palm and Palmetto Oil Production

Year	Palm Oil Tonnage	Palmetto Tonnage
1945	113,399	64,387
1946	121,874	80,000
1947	138,146	104,414
1948	155,452	111,513
1949	169,885	98,661
1950	180,939	128,385
1951	191,438	137,170
1952	170,364	109,508
1953	179,524	118,837
1954	195,245	118,918
1955	196,705	119,908
1956	220,906	139,993
1957	233,455	146,107
1958	225,115	—

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Palm Oil Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	7,624	18,511
1930	36,989	110,966
1935	56,788	89,095
1939	72,493	98,863
1945	77,938	356,925
1946	88,079	479,347
1947	84,935	699,604
1948	110,388	1,206,413
1949	121,760	1,167,712
1950	132,039	1,332,841
1951	132,016	2,429,796
1952	146,073	1,465,146
1953	133,842	1,146,981
1954	140,185	1,256,383
1955	150,358	1,495,295
1956	152,698	1,646,099
1957	155,501	1,723,103
1958	164,514	1,675,031
1959	185,187	1,879,838

### Palmetto Nuts

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	39,457	58,989
1930	66,356	99,535
1935	64,996	58,862
1939	84,778	76,015
1945	43,498	88,410
1946	48,909	121,223
1947	48,093	164,227
1948	83,375	441,737
1949	80,034	493,543
1950	85,771	587,339
1951	87,513	841,760
1952	93,454	614,543
1953	88,522	621,194
1954	71,807	472,151
1955	63,198	357,355
1956	35,486	204,739
1957	30,721	177,252
1958	38,234	220,758
1959	39,837	291,940

### Palmetto Oil

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1939	142	236
1945	7,786	58,141
1946	9,408	70,831
1947	11,078	134,678
1948	17,602	251,504
1949	14,193	210,299
1950	14,183	203,724
1951	18,903	341,509
1952	12,964	153,326
1953	16,265	217,324
1954	25,506	338,249
1955	35,143	398,670
1956	44,616	506,123
1957	55,065	637,428
1958	57,896	679,910
1959	60,674	896,991



### Leading Producers of Palm Oil in the Belgian Congo

- Belgika*, Banalia et Isangi (Province Orientale); 121, rue du Commerce, Brussels.
- Cardoso Frères*, Kikwit.
- Compagnie du Congo Belge*, Bongandanga (Province de l'Equateur); 39, Longue rue de l'Hôpital, Antwerp.
- Compagnie du Kasai*, S.C.R.L., Mwéka (Kasai); 41, rue de Naples, Brussels.
- Compagnie des Produits et Frigorifères du Congo "Profrigo"*, S.C.R.L., Matadi; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.
- Huileries du Congo Belge "H.C.B."* (Province Orientale, Kasai et Equateur); 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.
- Compagnie Jules Van Lancker*, S.C.R.L., N'Kolo (Bas-Congo); 17, rue de Londres, Brussels.
- Huileries et Plantations du Kwango*, Madimba (Léopoldville); 39, Longue rue de l'Hôpital, Antwerp.
- Plantations Tropicales*, S.C.R.L., Lukula-Tshela (Léopoldville); 52, rue Royale, Brussels.
- Sampedro Frères*, Kingandu (Léopoldville); B. P. n° 4, Kikwit.
- Entreprises Agricoles de la Busira au Lomami "Busira-Lomami"*, Ikela; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.
- Société de Colonisation Agricole au Mayumbe*, S.C.R.L., Tshela; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.
- Société de Cultures au Congo Belge*, S.C.R.L. (Provinces Orientale et Equateur); 49, rue Belliard, Brussels.
- Société Industrielle d'Exploitations Forestières au Congo "Siefac"*, c/o C<sup>ie</sup> J. Van Lancker, 17, rue de Londres, Brussels.

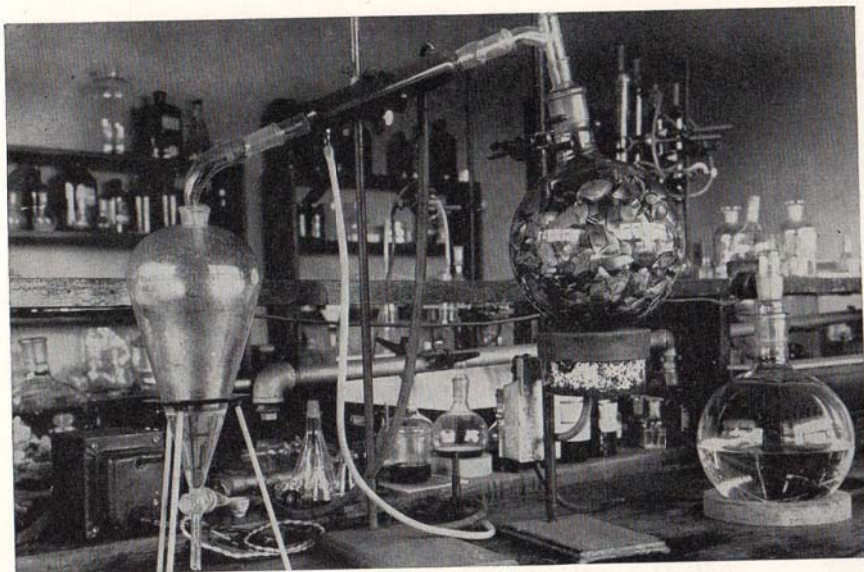
### Principal Exporters of Belgian Congo Palm Oil

- Amato*, S. A. Belge, 36, rue Ravenstein, Brussels.
- Compagnie d'Anvers*, S. A., 39, Longue rue de l'Hôpital, Antwerp.
- Coopérative des Producteurs et Exportateurs d'Huile de Palme du Congo Belge "Congopalm"*, S.C.D.C., 35, rue Belliard, Brussels; avenue des Aviateurs, Léopoldville.
- Etablissements Madail*, Léopoldville.

Palm Oil

The cultivation of palm oil plants has been carried out in the Belgian Congo since 1900. The first plantations were established in the Kasai region, and since then the area has been gradually extended to other parts of the country. The palm oil plant is a tree which grows to a height of 20 to 30 metres. It has a thick trunk and a crown of large, fan-shaped leaves. The fruit is a cluster of small, round drupes. The oil is extracted from the fruit by a process of crushing and pressing. The oil is then refined and used for a variety of purposes, including cooking, lighting, and as a raw material for the manufacture of soap and other products. The cultivation of palm oil plants is a profitable and important industry in the Belgian Congo, and it is expected that it will continue to grow in importance in the future.





## Perfume Plants

The cultivation of perfume plants has greatly developed in tropical and subtropical regions, as well as in southern Europe. Several varieties were experimented with in the Belgian Congo; one of these, the rose geranium (geranium rosat) gave the best results and has since been grown extensively. The plantations, nevertheless, have been localized in Kivu, and Ituri, at altitudes varying from 4,500 to 6,500 feet.

The rose geranium yields an essence that has been classified by Belgian technicians as Type Congo I and Type Congo II. The essence is put on the market under the names of Rhodinol, Geranol, and Citronellol, according to the processing which the plant has undergone.

2,616 pounds of rose geranium were exported from the Belgian Congo in 1957.

Perfume plants produce an essence, or oil which is utilized in the manufacture of perfumes and soaps, and is generally the basic material for manufacturing synthetic or pharmaceutical organic products.

Other plants which are more or less extensively grown in the high regions of the Belgian Congo are the lemongrass, vetiver, citron, eucalyptus and citronella.

### Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1936	1,900	296
1939	2,667	375
1945	8,279	4,108
1946	12,408	3,676
1947	5,504	2,318
1948	3,753	2,053
1949	23,491	5,037
1950	82,472	11,736
1951	85,820	16,213
1952	45,318	7,113
1953	84,199	8,770
1954	liters 71,643	7,649
1955	73,927	9,432
1956	75,335	10,194
1957	79,775	7,946
1958	71,450	6,777
1959	88,668	7,195

#### Principal Sales Agencies

*Société Coopérative des Produits Agricoles*, Offices de vente à Goma et à Bukavu (Kivu).

*Société "Plantocitra"*, M. M. Goussens, territoire Lubutu (Province Orientale).





## Pyrethrum

Pyrethrum is an herbaceous plant whose flower closely resembles the daisy. This insecticide plant has been grown in many countries since a long time. It was only introduced into the Belgian Congo in 1931, but cultivation spread rapidly in the high eastern regions of the country.

The powder obtained from the flowers constitutes an insecticide that has several uses. It destroys lice, bed-bugs, fleas, mosquitos, flies, caterpillars and plant-lice. Many plantations, and coffee plantations in particular, make considerable use of the powder, which is remarkably effective.

Pyrethrum has a great advantage over other insecticides, especially synthetic products, as it is not injurious to men and warm-blooded animals.

The pyrethrum grown in the Belgian Congo has a high percentage of active content and is, therefore, of excellent quality. Notwithstanding the competition with synthetic insecticides, there is always a big demand for Belgian Congo pyrethrum.

### Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1944	—	2,521
1945	1,714	33,513
1946	1,826	39,205
1947	904	21,062
1948	1,316	25,919
1949	1,254	28,400
1950	1,685	51,844
1951	1,954	63,667
1952	2,030	65,176
1953	1,986	64,710
1954	1,656	53,649
1955	2,590	83,660
1956	1,608	52,536
1957	985	36,849
1958	369	14,771
1959	67	2,698

#### Leading Exporters of the Belgian Congo

*Société Coopérative des Produits Agricoles*, Offices de vente à Bukavu et à Goma (Kivu).

*Old East*, Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi).

*Coopérative de pyrèthre "Socopa"*, Goma.

#### Principal Agents in Belgium

*Crédit Colonial et Commercial*, 115, avenue de France, Antwerp.





## Fibre Plants

Amongst the flora of the Belgian Congo there are a number of native self-sowing and imported plants that produce fibre which is utilized in textile and cord industries.

Industry has of course realized the commercial value of some of the plants and they have been chosen for rational cultivation by Europeans, or natives under the supervision of Europeans. Plants of minor commercial value are not exploited, but as they are, for the most part, self-sowing and thrive in abandoned plantations, it is usually the natives who reap and prepare the crops for their personal profit.

## AGAVE SISAL

The agave sisal is a perennial plant of Mexican origin and it is grown extensively in India, Indonesia, East Africa, Mozambique, and Madagascar.

Sisal plantations in the Belgian Congo cover an area of about 2,500 acres at present.

Sisal fibre is used in cord industries and there is an increasing demand for this extremely strong fibre for the manufacture of ship coil. It is also used to make bags and packing-cloth, and has the reputation of being particularly resistant.

Very pretty carpets are also made of the fibre after it has undergone a softening process.

By a method of fermentation and distillation, 250 litres of alcohol can be extracted from a ton of pulp.

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1945	51	316
1946	154	1,233
1947	158	1,152
1948	63	526
1949	25	283
1950	270	3,316
1951	155	3,525
1952	119	2,685
1953	258	2,632
1954	163	1,532
1955	262	2,187
1956	25	177
1957	130	1,022
1958	178	1,312
1959	100	822



## URENA LOBATA AND PUNGA; CONGOLESE FIBRE PLANTS

As in most warm countries, Congolese vegetation discloses a wide range of fibre plants which sow themselves in abandoned fields, or even sporadically, in the plains. The urena lobata and punga plants produce a fibre that can be compared to jute, and are two of the most interesting varieties. They thrive in vast areas that have a high temperature and the necessary humidity.

### Urena Lobata

The urena lobata is a bushy plant with perennial roots. The stalks, however, are annual, and while they normally grow to a height of from 5 to 8 feet, under favorable conditions they attain over 12 feet.

The urena plant grows wild in most parts of the Congo, but the exploitation of natural growth was abandoned in favor of rational cultivation, as very definite requirements must be met if urena is to compete economically and industrially with Indian jute.

Rational cultivation of urena began in 1926 and although the first plantations yielded a very fine quality fibre, the exploitation, as conceived by European planters, proved to be too taxing and only appeared possible if organized as native family enterprises under the control of European agricultural agents who were appointed to instruct the autochtones and supervise the quality of the production. Research institutes then undertook to determine the most favorable conditions for growth and yield. The produce varies from 450 to 1,000 lbs per acre, which corresponds to approximately 10 to 20 tons of green stalks; that is, a 5 to 6 % yield.

The application of new methods brought encouraging results and the cultivation of urena gradually expanded in regions favorable to its growth, i.e. the Lomami basin, the Lower Congo, and the Stanleyville and Ponthiersville regions.

Urena is classified according to very precise standards that take into consideration the fibre's color, silkiness and length. Due to this classification, five distinct qualities have been established according to standard commercial types.

The product is classified in European installations and the fibre is then combed, processed and wound into coils before being put up in bales. Each bale is marked with a "quality label" carefully controlled by a specialized official service.

### Punga

The wild textile plants from which the natives obtain punga fibre flourish on fallow land in the warm and relatively damp regions of the Congo. Punga fibre is good quality, dull in texture, but not as fine, however, as urena fibre.

It is processed, assorted and made into bales in European installations in the same way as urena lobata.

### Congo Fibre Export

Only small quantities of urena and punga fibre were exported from the Belgian Congo before 1935, and statistics only mention 500 tons having been shipped abroad. Export activities increased from then on, and from 1940 to 1945 over 8,500 tons were exported, reaching a peak in 1949 with a total export of 18,400 tons. The decrease during the following years can be attributed to the weaving plants which were established to meet the local needs for bags and cording.

### Utilization

In most cases Congolese fibre can replace jute, and is well suited, according to its quality, for manufacturing packing cloth, sackcloth, carpet canvas, coil of various dimensions, and string. It is interesting to note that experiments made



with thread manufactured from Congolese urena proved that it was stronger than jute thread.

Taking into consideration the results colonial producers have attained through improved technique and, consequently, better quality, one can safely say that Congo fibre meets the need of industrial consumption, thanks to proper processing, careful assorting, and an efficient commercial organization.

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
	180	225
1933	500	651
1935	4,463	10,295
1939	7,019	40,837
1945	8,356	53,765
1946	11,021	111,269
1947	12,877	158,073
1948	18,400	213,049
1949	15,207	193,214
1950	14,461	250,890
1951	11,094	158,448
1952	4,198	43,518
1953	2,178	27,541
1954	4,635	60,045
1955	3,456	43,541
1956	3,715	48,181
1957	6,335	80,636
1958	4,185	54,308
1959		

### Leading Exporters of Belgian Congo Fibres

*Compagnie Jules Van Lancker*, N'Kolo (Léopoldville); 17, rue de Londres, Brussels.

*Compagnie du Congo Belge*, Léopoldville; 39, Longue rue de l'Hôpital, Antwerp.

*Compagnie du Kasai*, Kahembe (Léopoldville); 41, rue de Naples, Brussels.

*Compagnie des Produits et des Frigorifères du Congo*, Léopoldville; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Huilerie et Plantations du Kwango*, Fumuputu (Bas-Congo); 39, Longue rue de l'Hôpital, Antwerp.

*Intertropical Comfina*, Léopoldville; 66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Nieuwe Afrikaanse Handelsvennootschap*, Léopoldville; 86, Lange Voorhout, The Hague, Netherlands.

*Société de Colonisation Agricole au Mayumbe*, Tshela (Mayumbe); 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

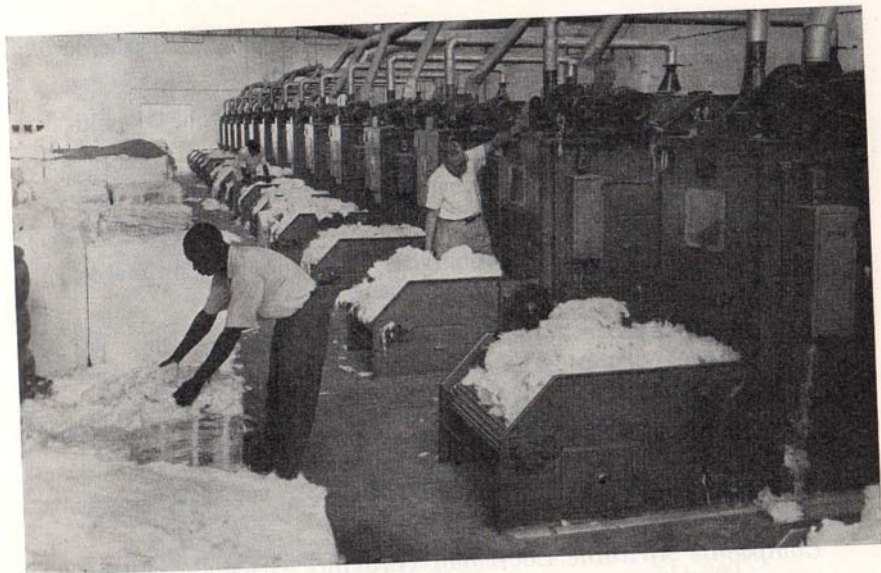
*Société Congolaise Bunge*, Léopoldville; 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Compagnie Africaine Cooreman* (Province Orientale et Léopoldville); 6, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, Léopoldville; 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.

*Etablissements Osterrieth*, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.





## Cotton

When cotton was first introduced into the Belgian Congo it was decided that it would be reserved as an industry for the native populations, in view of supplying them with a steady source of income; and ecolographic, geobotanical and agroecological research, as well as rational industrial equipment, directed their efforts to this end.

Today, we can safely say that cotton-growing is one of the most brilliant achievements of native agriculture.

The National Institute for Agronomical Study of Belgian Congo continues its tireless research and experiments in this particular field of native culture, in view of increasing produce and creating varieties that will either be immune to, or able to resist insects and diseases that habitually attack the cotton plant.

Cotton-growing, trade, and industry came under govern-

ment control by a decree of June 1st, 1947, which, since 1949, has gradually become effective in all the colony's cotton-field areas.

Production and export statistics are an eloquent proof of the successful development of this native agricultural venture.

Until 1939, up to 82 % of colonial cotton export was absorbed by the Belgian market, but in 1954 it dropped to 80 %. It is worthwhile noting that local consumption is increasing annually, due to the expansion of several textile industries, which brought consumption up to 10,596 tons in 1958.

In 1945, the cotton associations created a co-operative Congolese company called the "Comptoir de Vente des Cotons du Congo", for the purpose of marketing the production to the best advantages of the producers.

### Cultivated Area

	1956	1957
Equator . . . . .	107,145 acres	114,074 acres
Eastern Province . .	280,730 acres	265,005 acres
Kivu . . . . .	82,872 acres	90,948 acres
Katanga . . . . .	148,391 acres	143,194 acres
Kasai . . . . .	213,573 acres	206,573 acres
Ruanda-Urundi . . .	20,099 acres	18,179 acres
Total . . . . .	852,810 acres	837,973 acres



### Total Production in Tonnage

Year	Cotton-seed	Cotton-fibre
1921	1,770	500
1925	9,167	3,055
1930	30,600	10,145
1935	77,781	25,828
1940	132,104	45,230
1945	111,204	33,700
1950	142,595	48,681
1951	136,350	47,399
1952	163,295	55,850
1953	141,607	49,153
1954	150,567	50,863
1955	151,341	53,000
1956	156,846	55,000

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

#### Cotton fibres

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	175	1,357
1930	9,977	119,720
1935	23,516	142,558
1939	35,474	180,427
1945	37,009	429,323
1946	46,954	544,871
1947	43,644	858,344
1948	51,224	1,465,256
1949	46,790	1,394,896
1950	50,742	1,772,053
1951	41,157	2,104,798
1952	45,677	2,188,184
1953	47,072	1,851,680
1954	42,239	1,524,036
1955	41,385	1,596,086
1956	50,600	1,815,621
1957	39,365	1,286,999
1958	34,410	1,065,707
1959	52,790	1,368,740

### Cotton Exporters

*Comptoir de Vente des Cotons du Congo*, 27, rue du Trône, Brussels, including following societies:

*Belgika*, 121, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Compagnie Commerciale Belgo-Africaine*, 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Compagnie Cotonnière Congolaise*, 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.

*Compagnie de la Ruzizi*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Compagnie du Lubilash*, 17, rue de Gand, Courtrai.

*Cotonnière Coloniale*, 18, rue Joseph II, Brussels.

*Nieuwe Afrikaanse Handelsvennootschap*, 86, Lange Voorhout, The Hague, Netherlands.

*Société Agricole Commerciale et Industrielle du Kasai "Sacominka"*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société Congolaise Bunge*, 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Société Cotonnière de la Luisa*, 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Société Cotonnière du Bomokandi*, 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.

*Société Cotonnière du Tanganyika*, 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.

*R. Vincent*, Mahagi (Ituri).

### Sole Agent

*Comptoir de Vente des Cotons du Congo*, 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.





## Tea

The tea plant, although a native of eastern Asia, has spread to areas which are astonishingly varied. The plant flourishes under many different climatic conditions, but the best results for quantity and quality are obtained in mountainous regions which are cool and damp, at an altitude of from 4,500 to 7,000 feet, and with an annual rainfall of from about 60 to 78 inches, preferably rain that falls regularly throughout the year.

Highly qualified experts advise tea-growing in the Lower Congo, at an altitude of 1,000 to 1,200 meters, with a rainfall of 1,500 to 2,000 mm.

The tea plant was only introduced into the Belgian Congo

a few years ago, but preliminary experiments for industrial cultivation proved that there were great possibilities for developing production in the mountainous regions of Kivu, in the eastern part of our colony.

The tea plant is a shrubby bush that can grow to a height of 6 to 20 feet, and its leaves are small and tough. The best tea is gathered from the young sprouts, and especially from the half-open top leaves.

An acre of tea plantation normally yields about 450 lbs. of marketable tea. World produce reaches approximately 840,000 tons annually. 500,000 tons are used for export, of which 38 % comes from India, 26 % from Ceylon, 17 % from Indonesia, 10 % from China and 4 % from Japan: totaling 94 % from Asiatic countries.

Until recent years, the Congo's production was used entirely for colonial consumption, but since 1953 it has reached foreign markets, principally London, which is by far the most important and where our tea has been very favorably accepted. Our colonial tea has also been exported to the United States, Canada, Italy, Holland and only recently, to Germany. Small quantities of tea have been used for Belgian trade, as well.

### Acreage of Tea Plantation in the Belgian Congo

Year	Surface in acres
1945	976
1946	1,060
1947	1,374
1948	1,789
1949	2,308
1950	2,772
1951	2,298
1952	4,500
1953	5,592
1954	4,717
1955	6,093
1956	5,710
1957	6,984



### Belgian Congo Tea Export

Year	Weight in tons	Value in francs
1945	22	1,026,112
1950	56	2,498,240
1951	2.4	98,000
1952	94	3,522,454
1953	192	5,071,000
1954	515	20,762,852
1955	919	46,123,939
1956	1,491	57,236,240
1957	2,082	80,717,669
1958	2,465	79,485,267
1959	3,585	125,892,657

### Leading Producers

*Plantations de Thé au Kivu "Théki", Nyabiondo (Kivu);*  
 148, rue Royale, Brussels.  
*Plantations Dierckx, Nya-Lukemba, Bukavu (Kivu).*  
*Plantations J. Voets, Dutu-Kahele (Kivu).*  
*Plantations de Bigutu, Bukavu (Kivu).*  
*Coopérative des Mokotos, B. P. 55, Kahe (Kivu).*  
*Coopérative de Thé, Ngweshe (Kivu).*

### Principal Agents in Belgium

*Plantations de Thé au Kivu "Théki", 148, rue Royale, Brussels.*  
*Crédit Colonial et Commercial, 15, avenue de France,*  
 Antwerp. *London Branch, Ibex House, Minorities, London*  
 E. C3.  
*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-*  
*Orient Réunies "Socomabel", 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.*



## Copal

Copal is the solidified resin of the copal tree. In the Congo, the trees grow in swampy forests subjected to seasonal rain. The trees also grow at the edge of streams and rivers, especially in equatorial regions, in Lulonga, Aruwimi, Ubangi, Stanleyville, Lake Leopold II and certain tributaries of the Kasai River.

The resin drips from the wounds inflicted to the bark by insects, or from the rubbing and breaking of branches. If the tree dies, or breaks, or if its roots are finally exposed through erosion, the roots continue to yield a resinous sap which forms a wreath-like deposit of copal at the foot of the tree.

Copal comes in two principal forms: the recent formation, which is soft, or green copal.

Hard copal, called "fossil", is an old accumulation.



The soft, or green copal is the solidified resin on the bark or at the foot of the tree; it is an opaque, milky, and heavy substance.

The hard, or "fossil" copal is the old resin that the tree has exuded; it is light yellow, shiny and sometimes completely transparent. It is known as forest copal and usually comes in block form.

In Europe, copal is used principally for the manufacture of lacquers and varnishes. Copal varnish is especially in demand because of its high degree of noninflammability. There are other uses for copal, such as: in the preparation of photographic varnishes, combined with a mixture for waterproofing leather, in powder form for preventing driving-belts to slip in the pulleys, for road surfacing, insulation material and its numerous industrial applications.

#### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	13,250	40,305
1930	16,680	36,695
1935	16,868	24,171
1939	11,111	20,119
1945	13,810	72,303
1946	19,693	156,429
1947	23,421	256,400
1948	10,744	126,949
1949	10,553	91,809
1950	12,293	146,935
1951	14,227	193,058
1952	4,724	53,295
1953	5,377	44,279
1954	7,205	71,284
1955	7,496	77,575
1956	4,949	48,388
1957	4,301	35,495
1958	4,179	33,842
1959	4,064	35,369

#### Leading Belgian Congo Exporters

*Société Macodibe*, Léopoldville.

*Etablissements Madail*, Léopoldville.

*Sedec*, 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

*Compagnie des Produits et des Frigorifères du Congo*, Matadi; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Compagnie du Kasai*, Dima (Kasai); 41, rue de Naples, Brussels.

*Intertropical Comfina*, Léopoldville; 62-66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Entreprises Agricoles de la Busira au Lomami "Busira-Lomami"*, Ikela; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Société Commerciale du Centre Africain*, Léopoldville (Belgian Congo); 80, rue Everaerts, Antwerp.

*Société Equatoriale Congolaise Lulonga-Ikelemba*, Wendji (Coquilhatville); 3, rue Solvyns, Antwerp.

#### Principal Agents in Belgium

*Société Congolaise Bunge*, 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Crédit Colonial et Commercial*, 115, avenue de France, Antwerp.

*Crédit National et Colonial*, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.

*Eggermont*, rue des Otages, Antwerp.

*Osterrieth et C<sup>ie</sup>*, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel"*, 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.





## Ivory

The Belgian Congo has always been the world's foremost producer of ivory and maintains that privilege today with an annual production of about 190,000 kilos evaluated at approximately 45 million francs. A good part of the production is shipped to Antwerp where it is periodically sold at auction. The most important buyers are from the United States, France and Great Britain. Surplus merchandise is shipped to East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika territories), and then sent to various Asiatic countries.

Several distinct characteristics determine the commercial value of ivory, such as weight, grain, and color. It may be heavy or medium weight, straight or curved, solid or cylindrical. The hollow points, which are called "bangles" are used preferably for bracelets and rings. The cylindrical solid points are reserved for the manufacture of billiard balls which are turned out of massive ivory. The small points are generally utilized for carving small objects and statuettes.

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Quantity in lbs.	Value in francs
1920	740,738	35,857,227
1930	337,150	21,387,998
1935	475,405	29,544,760
1939	173,471	11,481,910
1945	282,086	24,677,800
1946	602,345	54,314,419
1947	267,486	27,612,843
1948	269,029	31,355,273
1949	149,872	14,114,061
1950	219,856	22,261,210
1951	281,307	38,694,049
1952	296,841	29,736,197
1953	429,374	40,980,000
1954	215,487	18,402,382
1955	414,632	42,955,573
1956	458,225	52,886,451
1957	365,410	41,377,742
1958	316,360	33,950,257
1959	200,341	42,455,615

### Leading Belgian Congo Exporters

*Compagnie du Kasai*, Ditma (Kasai); 41, rue de Naples, Brussels.

*Intertropical Comfina*, Léopoldville; 66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.



*Entreprises Agricoles de la Busira au Lomami "Busira-Lomami", Ikela; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.*

*Société Commerciale et Minière de l'Uele "Comuele", Aketi (Uele); 5, rue de la Science, Brussels.*

*Société du Haut-Uele et du Nil "Shun", Aba (Haut-Uele); 62-66, rue du Commerce, Brussels.*

*Société Générale d'Exportation Van Santen et Van den Broeck "Estaf", Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi); 239, Longue rue d'Argile, Antwerp.*

*Belgika, Stanleyville (Province Orientale); 121, rue du Commerce, Brussels.*

#### Principal Brokers in Belgium

*Pierre Wallaert, S.P.R.L., 119, avenue de France, Antwerp.*

*Société Congolaise Bunge, 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.*

*Compagnie Commerciale Kreglinger, 9, Grand-Place, Antwerp.*

*Compagnie des Matières Premières, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.*

*Crédit National et Colonial, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.*

*Osterrieth et C<sup>ie</sup>, 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.*

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel", 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.*

*Crédit Colonial et Commercial, 115, avenue de France, Antwerp.*



## Hides

The Belgian Congo hide industry could have a much higher valorization if methods for preparation were improved and more care given to the finishing of the product.

These are two difficult problems to solve as the major part of cattle raising is in the hands of the natives who consider hide as a relatively unimportant by-product.

To add to these unfavorable conditions, the African climate facilitates the spreading of germs and insects which are detrimental to the skins, and the merchandise for export is often shipped across great distances under conditions that prevent proper conservation.

Belgian industry is able to obtain a good supply from the



colonial market, but the quantity does not meet the needs and the quality is, moreover, irregular. Furthermore, the Congolese hide industry, which has greatly increased in recent years, already absorbs over a third of the total production.

Regardless of this situation, the hide trade has acquired a certain importance in the colonial economy.

### Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi

#### Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	209	976
1930	1,096	8,800
1935	1,704	6,443
1939	129	1,364
1945	814	15,186
1946	1,921	22,405
1947	1,373	41,331
1948	1,211	41,164
1949	1,363	55,886
1950	1,472	85,215
1951	—	—
1952	1,473	59,011
1953	1,487	58,118
1954	1,326	42,555
1955	1,354	52,778
1956	1,221	42,992
1957	1,106	40,280
1958	1,020	37,790
1959	825	31,583

#### Leading Belgian Congo Exporters

*Compagnie Pastorale du Lomami "Pastorale",* Kamina (Katanga); 34, rue Capitaine Crespel, Brussels.

*Société Internationale Forestière et Minière du Congo "For-minière",* Tshikapa (Kasai); 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Old East, Usumbura* (Ruanda-Urundi) et Bunia (Province Orientale).

*Sedec, Léopoldville;* 46, rue Montoyer, Brussels.

*Société Cotonnière du Bomokandi "Socobom",* Bomokandi (Province Orientale); 27, rue du Trône, Brussels.

*Compagnie des Grands Elevages Congolais,* Biano (Katanga); 4, rue d'Egmont, Brussels.

*Société Congolaise Bunge, Léopoldville;* 21, rue d'Arenberg, Antwerp.

*Compagnie Commerciale Kreglinger,* 9, Grand-Place, Antwerp.

*Compagnie d'Elevage et d'Alimentation du Katanga,* Elisabethville; 4, rue d'Egmont, Brussels.

*Compagnie des Produits et Frigorifères du Congo,* Matadi; 13, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Crédit National et Colonial,* 64, Longue rue Neuve, Antwerp.

*Société Commerciale Anversoise et Société Belge d'Extrême-Orient Réunies "Socomabel",* Léopoldville; 29, rue de Mai, Antwerp.

*Société Générale d'Exportation Van Santen et Van den Broeck "Estaf",* Usumbura (Ruanda-Urundi); 239, Longue rue d'Argile, Antwerp.

*Société d'Elevage et de Culture au Congo Belge "S.E.C.",* Kambaye (Kasai); 42, rue Royale, Brussels.



## Mining Products

Very few regions in the world can equal the wealth, extraordinary variety, content and provision of minerals found in Congo subsoil; they largely compensate for the difficulties involved because of their distance from the coast.

Exploitation of these subsoils is developing and improving daily.

Gold, copper, tin, diamonds and coal were the first minerals to be mined and they still are predominant in this field of industry.

Due to the quality of the ores and continual perfecting of processing methods, the types of produce are not only more varied, but can answer the growing needs of consumers, who are more and more interested in rare metals.

### ZINC

All Congo zinc comes from the "Union Minière's" underground mines in the Upper Katanga at Kipushi, where it is found with copper in variable proportions. It is separated according to specific concentrations. Crude sulfuric concentrate contains approximately 57 % of zinc, a part of which serves for the local manufacture of sulfuric acid.

Since 1953, the Société Métallurgique du Katanga "Metal-kat", which has a capacity of 40,000 tons annually, processes a part of the grilled zinc concentrate by lixiviation and elec-

trolysis, and the product is then exported to the United States. The crude zinc concentrate and the surplus of grilled zinc supply Belgian plants.

### COBALT

Cobalt is closely allied with copper mineralization, especially in the Kolwezi area. According to their content, after concentration these ores are processed by lixiviation and electrolysis or electro-thermal treatment at the Jadotville plants.

Electrolytic cobalt is in granular form. The white-cobalt alloy which is processed in the electric furnaces at Jadotville is refined at the Olen plants in Belgium.

Although cobalt has been known since a long time, its many uses are of recent date and its consumption has increased. Cobalt confers remarkable qualities to the metals with which it is combined, and these are in demand for special purposes, such as: sheeting and casing, reaction motors, magneto-electric material, etc. Cobalt oxide, known as cobalt blue, is used in ceramics and glass because of its exquisite, intense color.

The Cobalt Information Center was founded on January 10th, 1957, for the purpose of promoting consumption of cobalt, and studying its possibilities. The Belgian Congo leads in cobalt production with about 1/2 of world production.

### URANIUM AND RADIUM

Shinkolowbe, 25 km from Jadotville, has become universally famous as one of the world's richest uranium-radium mines.

The mineral is extracted by subterranean mining, and the pitchblende, or uranium oxide, is enriched in an important



local plant before being shipped to the United States and Great Britain, according to the agreement concluded. A portion, however, is reserved for Belgium's needs.

The minerals at Shinkolowbe contain, besides uranium, other precious metals and rare earths, such as monazite and radium, of which the Belgian Congo is sole world producer.

### CADMIUM AND GERMANIUM

Cadmium and germanium are found with copper and zinc in the Kipushi ores. During the metallurgical processing of the concentrates, these two metals are volatilized and recuperated in the dusts. Cadmium is valorized on the spot, while germanium in a very pure state is sent to Olen, in Belgium, for refining.

Like zinc, cadmium is used as a protective element in metals, while germanium has a tremendous future in the electronics field, especially for the manufacture of radios and T.V., etc. The Belgian Congo and the United States supply the world market in about equal proportion.

### GOLD AND OTHER METALS

Gold is one of the first metals to have been exploited in the Belgian Congo. The principal mines are found in the northern and eastern parts of the country, in the Eastern Province and in Kivu, where the gold veins superimpose zinc in some parts.

Since a few years gold-reef mining is rapidly developing and is responsible for about 2/3 of total production. It is highly concentrated, and although several companies operate gold mines, the two foremost operators are alone able to supply 4/5 of the total production. Belgian Congo's gold nugget is sent to Belgium for refining. Copper ore also con-

tains a small quantity of precious metals, such as: gold, silver, platinum, palladium, etc., which are extracted during refining.

A part of gold is sold to art and medical industries, and the surplus is given over to the Belgian Congo and Ruandi-Urundi Central Bank.

### MANGANESE

The Lulua River, southwest of Katanga, contains important (veins of manganese. Two of these are in Kisenge and a third is in Kasekelesa. All are in proximity of the Tenke-Dilolo railways.

Nine-tenths of the supply comes from Kisenge quarries, and when washed and cleaned, yield a commercial ore containing 50 to 52 % of manganese. The Société Beceka-Manganese, the leading producer, has been operating since 1958 a new installation for concentration by heavy liquids, which will enrich low-content ores.

### COAL

The coal basins of Luena and the Lukuga, in central and northeast Katanga have been worked, respectively, since 1911 and 1922, but because of rather poor quality (the coal is about 30 % ashes and not suitable for metallurgic purposes) and limited outlets for local trade, coal production has not been developed, and mining was even halted for several years at Lukula near Albertville.

Congolese coal is only used for local industrial consumption and for railroads, but possibilities for valorizing the Lukuga coal-mines are now being studied in view of deriving synthetic gasoline and other products, by a transformation process.



## TUNGSTEN, TANTALUM, NIOBIUM AND OTHER PRODUCTS

Tungsten (wolfram), tantalum and niobium (columbium) are mostly found with cassiterite in mixed ores, and are separated by electro-magnetic machines when the cassiterite is being processed.

Ruanda-Urundi is operating an amblygonite lithium ore mine since 1953. Spodumen, a by-product of tin-ore pulverizing plants, is plentiful in the Manono area, where a research plant is experimenting with carbonate of lithium.

Lithium has many uses and it is being utilized more and more in greasing materials for airplane motors, armaments, and other industries. Beryl (silicate of aluminium-beryllum) is the only commercial source of beryllum being used in connection with nuclear energy. In the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, it is being extracted from tin ores, and export represents about 1/6 of world production. Some types of beryl crystals are precious stones known as emeralds, aquamarines, etc.

Bastnaesite, fluocarbonate of cerium and lanthanum production is steadily increasing: monazite, phosphate of cerium and lanthanum are found in certain sulfuric and stanniferous concentrates.

Bitumen has been mined in the coastal area since 1950. The beds are composed of sands containing 12 to 15 % of bitumen, and these asphalts are utilized in road-surfacing.

## Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Export Statistics

(Per 1,000 tons)	1953	1954	1955	1946	1957	1958
Cobalt contained in cobalt products .	9	9	8	8	8	7
Gold (kg. net) . .	13,912	11,371	11,776	11,510	12,519	12,420
Zinc . . . . .	9	30	33	41	50	51
Manganese . . . .	184	250	274	342	340	319
Zinc concentrates .	125	121	103	72	79	84
Tungsten . . . . .	1	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.2

### Leading Producers

#### Zinc and cadmium

*Société Métallurgique du Katanga "Metalkat", 7, rue de la Chancellerie, Brussels.*

*Union Minière du Haut-Katanga "U.M.H.-K.", 6, rue montagne du Parc, Brussels.*

*Cobalt, uranium, radium, germanium, platinum, palladium, silver*

*Union Minière du Haut-Katanga "U.M.H.-K.", 6, rue montagne du Parc, Brussels.*

#### Gold

*Société des Mines d'Or de Kilo-Moto, 1, place du Luxembourg, Brussels.*

*Compagnie Minière des Grands Lacs Africains "M.G.L.", 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.*

*Société Internationale Forestière et Minière du Congo "Forminière", 42, rue Royale, Brussels.*

*Les Mines d'Or et d'Étain du Kindu "Kinorétain", 42, rue Royale, Brussels.*



### Manganese

*Bécéka-Manganèse*, 46, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société de Recherche Minière du Sud-Katanga*, 6, rue montagne du Parc, Brussels.

### Coal

*Charbonnage de la Luena*, 10, rue Bréderode, Brussels.

*Compagnie Géologique et Minière des Ingénieurs et Industriels Belges "Géomines"*, 4, rue de la Science, Brussels.

### Tungsten

*Les Mines d'Or et d'Etain du Kindu "Kinorétain"*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Compagnie Minière des Grands Lacs Africains "M.G.L."*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*M. Marchal*, colon minier du Nord du Ruanda.

### Tantalum — Niobium

*Compagnie Géologique et Minière des Ingénieurs et Industriels Belges "Géomines"*, 4, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Compagnie Minière de l'Urega "Minerga"*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Compagnie Minière des Grands Lacs Africains "M.G.L."*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Comité National du Kivu*, 16, rue d'Egmont, Brussels.

*Société des Mines d'Etain du Ruanda-Urundi "Minétain"*, 60, rue Ravenstein, Brussels.

### Beryl

*Compagnie Minière des Grands Lacs Africains "M.G.L."*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

### Amblygonite

*Société des Mines d'Etain du Ruanda-Urundi "Minétain"*, 60, rue Ravenstein, Brussels.

### Bastnaesite

*Société Minière du Muhinga et de Kigali "Somuki"*, 12, Longue rue des Claires, Antwerp.

### Bitumen

*Société des Bitumes et Asphaltes du Congo "Sobiasco"*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

### Sales Agencies

### Ores and Metals

*Société Générale des Minerais*, 31, rue du Marais, Brussels.

### Gold

*Coopérative des Producteurs d'Or "Congor"*, 1, place du Luxembourg, Brussels.





## Copper

The copper industry has had a leading role in the economical development of the Belgian Congo, particularly in Katanga. The "Union Minière", by an agreement concluded with the Special Committee of Katanga (C.S.K.), obtained the concession for the copper mines in Upper Katanga covering approximately 8,000 square miles. The mines are divided into three main groups: southeast, central and west.

The most important mine of the southeast group is in Kipushi, 20 km from Elizabethville. The deposits contain an important content of copper and zinc sulphates. This is the only mine in Katanga that has subterranean mining. The copper ore is processed in a concentrator at the mine and then sent to the Water-Jackets furnaces at the Lumbumbashi plants.

The matter which is then extracted is purified by transformers, and the copper blister, 98,5 % pure, is melted into nuggets and shipped to Europe for refining. The Kipushi mines alone yield approximately half of all the "Union Minière"'s copper product.

The mines of the central group are gradually draining, and except for the uranium-radium mine at Shinkolobwe, mining has been halted. The Belgian Congo's most important industrial center, Jadotville, is in this central area, about 140 km northeast of Elizabethville. The concentrated-copper and cobalt refineries are established here, as well as electrolysis plants for the western mining group, and electric foundries producing a white-cobalt alloy that is sent to refineries in Belgium.

Thirdly, the western mine group, situated 87 miles west of Jadotville, includes a number of copper oxide mines, a mineral often allied with cobalt. Surface mining is operated by means of powerful equipment and the output is tremendous. An important copper electrolyzing plant is under construction in this area and its capacity is calculated to exceed that of Jadotville. It will start operating in 1960 in order to replace the gradual drainage of the Prince Leopold Mine, and the diminished copper production of the Lubumbashi plants. In Kolwezi, germanium is recuperated in intermediate products. It is found in the copper dust from the Lubumbashi plant and is shipped for processing at Olen, in Belgium.

Copper is characterized by its high conductivity and unalterability. It is very resistant to the intense heat of electric arcing.

Certain copper alloys lend themselves well to casting and stamp-pressing as they are malleable, very ductile and resistant to corrosion.

Copper is utilized principally in electrical industries: for electric motors, telephones, radios, electric network distribution, and in the development of electric traction. Besides the electric plants, an important quantity of the product is utilized in automobile and construction industries.

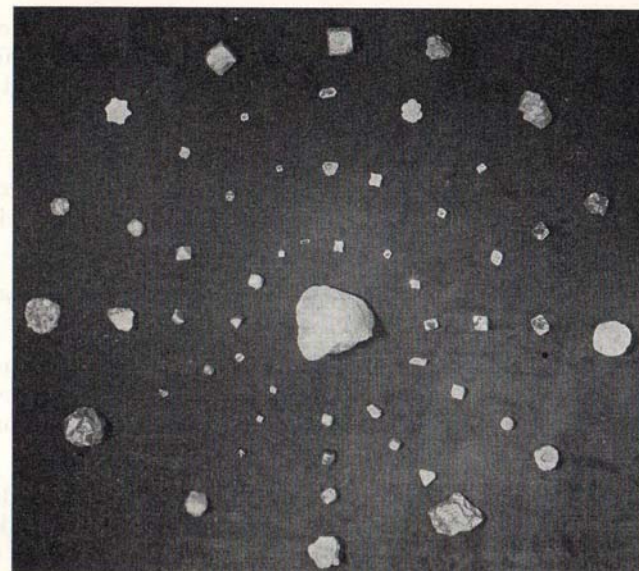


### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	18,913	64,303
1930	146,749	719,069
1935	149,695	245,011
1939	128,382	431,489
1945	169,439	1,289,934
1946	162,952	1,148,185
1947	166,830	1,459,595
1948	157,397	2,989,511
1949	151,415	2,696,871
1950	166,883	3,189,026
1951	183,930	4,749,866
1952	204,219	6,159,939
1953	207,116	6,831,138
1954	226,766	6,683,599
1955	230,769	8,040,704
1956	253,748	10,973,548
1957	241,565	7,485,498
1958	241,345	5,401,560
1959	283,293	7,972,557

#### Producer

*Union Minière du Haut-Katanga*, 6, montagne du Parc,  
Brussels.



## Diamonds

During the years 1910-1911, the systematic prospecting of diamonds in the Mai-Munene regions brought about the discovery of several diamond mines, and demarcation of the diamond area took place in 1912.

There are numerous mines in the Kasai district but others are also found in Sankuru, Maniema, the lower Congo, Kwango, Kibali-Ituri, and Uele.

Diamond mining in the Belgian Congo is either alluvial, eluvial or in primitive rock formations. Veins are frequently found in riverbeds and on river banks.

The quantity and grade of the diamonds vary greatly, not



only from one deposit to another but also in the same vein. According to the quality, the nature of the deposit and mining conditions, the output can range from less than a carat to several carats per cubic meter of gravel.

Countries leading in the production of diamonds are: the Belgian Congo, South Africa, and southwest Africa, Angola, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, French Equatorial Africa, French West Africa, Brazil, British Guiana, and Venezuela.

Since several years, the Belgian Congo has, in weight, the most important production.

The Congo diamonds are of two distinct types; those of Kasai are very fine stones for jewelry, whereas those from Lubilash are used almost exclusively for industrial diamonds and *boart*.

The Lubilash mines are generally estimated to produce 75 % of the world's industrial and boart diamonds. In value, however, the export only represents 15 % to 18 %, due to the predominance of industrial diamonds whose value is inferior to the fine stones.

It is interesting to note that in times of world crises' the international trade in jewelers' diamonds is very limited, whereas the industrial and boart diamond, being necessary to industry, has a stabilized market which can be very advantageous to colonial economy.

### Belgian Congo Export Statistics

Year	Tonnage in carats	Value in thousands of frs.
1920	274,103	35,633
1930	2,086,768	137,040
1935	4,312,441	90,979
1939	3,692,900	105,001
1945	7,567,000	185,059
1946	6,057,783	366,543
1947	4,941,156	333,135
1948	10,842,460	482,811
1949	9,822,978	479,340
1950	10,147,571	496,322
1951	10,331,375	456,612
1952	11,515,958	787,819
1953	12,386,643	857,803
1954	12,201,926	744,683
1955	13,016,216	1,208,507
1956	14,088,874	1,339,044
1957	15,193,305	1,537,036
1958	15,097,207	1,680,587
1959	15,953,518	1,724,646

### Leading Belgian Congo Producers

*Société Internationale Forestière et Minière du Congo "Forminière"*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société Minière du Beceka*, 46, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société Minière du Luebo*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société Minière du Kasai*, 41, rue de Naples, Brussels.

*Société Minière de la Lueta*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.





## Tin

Although the production, in tonnage, of tin is far from being as important as that of other non-ferrous metals, such as copper, zinc, and lead, it has become one of the leading branches of non-ferrous metallurgy because of its many uses and its value to modern industry.

A great many tin mines are being exploited throughout the world. As Chinese production cannot be accurately estimated at present it has been listed according to its importance, as follows: Malay, Indonesia, Bolivia, China, Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, Thailand, Nigeria, Australia, Portugal, United Kingdom, Birmania.

The following statistics give the totals of individual output relative to world produce for the years 1955, 1957 and 1958.

These figures represent the metric tonnage of tin contained in ore extracts, as published by the International Tin Council.

### Production of Tin Concentrates

	Metric Tonnage		
	1955	1957	1958
Malay . . . . .	62,227	60,024	39,072
Indonesia . . . . .	33,903	28,166	23,572
Thailand . . . . .	11,200	13,747	7,850
China . . . . .	8,535	16,250	18,300
Miscellaneous . . . . .	2,299	2,450	2,951
Asia . . . . .	118,164	120,637	91,745
% of total . . . . .	65.7	66.0	66.9
Bolivia <sup>(1)</sup> . . . . .	28,369	28,241	18,015
Miscellaneous . . . . .	1,174	1,289	1,187
America <sup>(1)</sup> . . . . .	29,543	29,530	19,202
% of total . . . . .	16.4	16.1	14.—
Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi . . . . .	15,269	14,509	11,342
Nigeria . . . . .	8,289	9,766	6,330
Miscellaneous . . . . .	2,164	2,635	2,343
Africa . . . . .	25,722	26,910	20,015
% of total . . . . .	14.3	14.7	14.7
Portugal . . . . .	1,468	1,145	1,260
United Kingdom . . . . .	1,051	1,044	1,104
Miscellaneous . . . . .	1,972	1,679	1,192
Europe . . . . .	4,491	3,868	3,556
% of total . . . . .	2.5	2.1	2.6
Australia . . . . .	2,049	1,983	2,278
% of total . . . . .	1.1	1.1	1.8
World total . . . . .	179,969	182,880	137,160

<sup>(1)</sup> Bolivian production in 1952 reached 32,472 tons. Total production for America was 33,618 tons.



Tin mines which have already been discovered in the Belgian Congo are concentrated in two areas: Katanga and Kivu-Maniema. There are some mines in Ruanda, as well.

The oldest known mines are in Katanga and include the Union Minière mines in Upper Katanga at Busanga, Funda-Biabo and Shienzi, where mining was suspended in 1946, and those of the Sermikat Company at the northern extremity of the Katanga plains (Mitwaba), and the Geomines Company at Manono.

All other mines were only discovered after 1930. They are situated between the Lualaba River and Lake Kivu and are essentially deposits of alluvial and eluvial detritus formations in the basins of the river's right-hand tributaries, i.e. the Elila, Ulindi and Lowa. The various companies operating them are amongst the most important in this particular branch of the Congolese mining industry, such as Symétain, Kinor-étain, M.G.L., C.N.Ki, Minerga, Miluba, Belgikamines, Cololacs.

The mines in protectorate territories are found principally along the Nile-Congo ridge and in northeast Ruanda near Kigali. Minétain, Somuki and Géoruanda are the foremost operators.

In 1931, there were three producers of tin in the Belgian Congo. At present there are fifteen mining companies and a number of small-scale individual operators scattered throughout the Ruanda-Urundi.

The province of Kivu-Maniema leads in production while Katanga stands second and Ruanda is third.

The cassiterite concentrate (tin oxide) which is obtained by on-the-spot washing, and by gravimetric concentration of stannic gravel and soil and magnetic division as well, contains 68 to 77 % of tin and very few impurities. Other valuable minerals are frequently mixed with the tin oxide and are handled jointly by several tin producers. These minerals include wolframium (oxide of tungsten) colombo-tantalate and other more or less complex metals which are indispensable to modern metallurgy.

However, a part of the cassiterite is concentrated, in the

Belgian Congo, in the furnace of the Geomines, who melts also for the account of Sermikat and Georuanda Companies.

All the tin produced in Belgium and the Colony is stamped with the mark U.M.H.-K., and contains a minimum of 99.96 % of tin. It is therefore rated as one of the purest tins to be found on the market.

In regard to world production, the following statistics show the metric tonnage of Belgium and Belgian Congo tin output during the last three years.

#### Production of Tin metal in the Belgian Congo and Belgium

	Metric Tonnage		
	1955	1957	1958
Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi . . . . .	3,083	2,693	2,686
Belgium . . . . .	10,599	10,027	8,862
Total . . . . .	13,682	12,720	11,548
World total . . . . .	181,364	177,800	143,256
% . . . . .	7.5	7.2	8.1

The countries foremost in tin production are, in order of their importance: Malay, United Kingdom, Holland, China, Belgium and the United States.

World consumption of the various forms of tin, since the last war, are as follows:

Tin plate . . . . .	38.2
Welding . . . . .	23.6
Antifriction . . . . .	12.6
Bronze and brass . . . . .	9.6
Galvanizing . . . . .	5.7
Tubing and sheeting . . . . .	4.2
Miscellaneous . . . . .	5.8

Leading consumers of tin are, in order of importance; the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan,



Canada, India and Italy. The United States uses two to three times as much as the United Kingdom.

All Belgo-Congolese tin production is put on the international market by intermediary of the Société Générale des Minerais in Brussels.

The Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi are members of the International Pact for Tin, whose purpose is to stabilize the tin market and promote harmonious development of production and consumption.

#### Leading Producers of Congolese Tin

*Compagnie Géologique et Minière des Ingénieurs et Industriels Belges "Géomines"*, 4, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Compagnie Géologique et Minière du Ruanda-Urundi "Géoruanda"*, 4, rue de la Science, Brussels.

*Société "Symétain"*, 112, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Les Mines d'Or et d'Etain de Kindu "Kinorétain"*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Société Minière de la Belgika "Belgikamines"*, 121, rue du Commerce, Brussels.

*Société des Mines d'Etain du Ruanda-Urundi "Minétain"*, 42, rue Royale, Brussels.

*Compagnie Minière des Grands Lacs Africains*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Compagnie Minière de l'Urega "Minerga"*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Compagnie Minière du Ruanda-Urundi "Mirudi"*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Société Minière de Lualaba "Miluba"*, 24, avenue de l'Astronomie, Brussels.

*Comité National du Kivu "C.N.Ki"*, 16, rue d'Egmont, Brussels.

*Société d'Exploitation et de Recherches Minières au Katanga "Sermikat"*, 48, rue de Namur, Brussels.

*Société Minière du Muhinga et de Kigali "Somuki"*, 12, Longue rue des Claires, Antwerp.

*Compagnie de Recherches et d'Exploitations Minières au Ruanda-Urundi "Corem"*, 28, avenue Rubens, Antwerp.

*Société Minière "Cololacs"*, 2, montagne du Parc, Brussels.



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